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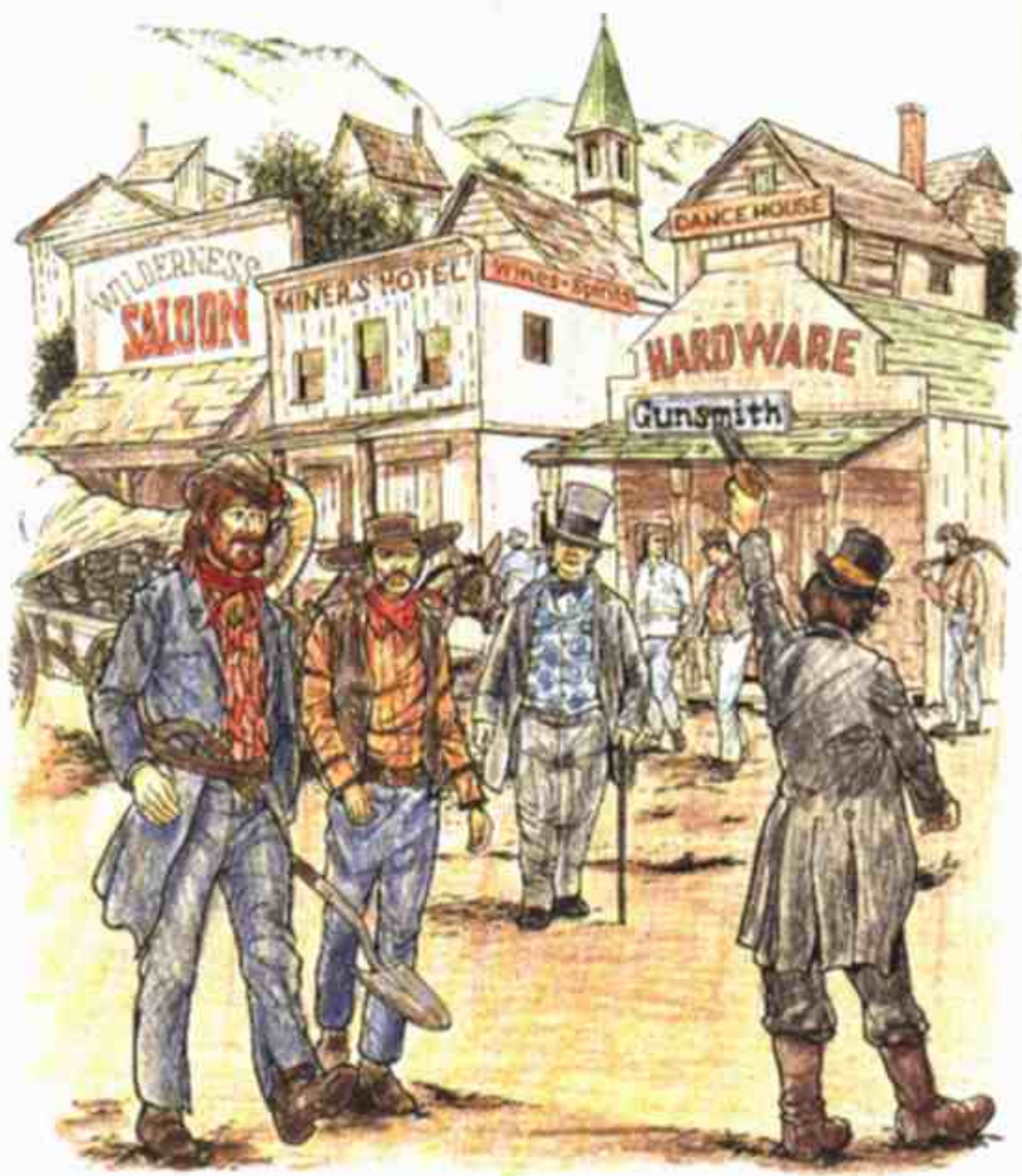
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Peter Copeland

STORY OF THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH

Coloring Book





Introduction

The great California Gold Rush was an influence on the movement westward in mid nineteenth-century America. It lasted only about ten years—but what fantastic years they were!

One forty-niner discovered a gigantic nugget of pure gold that weighed as much as he did. At the Rich Bar diggings, one single pan of dirt could yield as much as \$2000 in gold dust. Tales of such riches spread gold fever and men came from all over the world to try their luck in California—over 100,000 men in the first two years of the Gold Rush. They intended to make their fortunes and then go back to where they came from. Many went home flat broke, but, in the end, many more brought their families out to California to stay and settle the land.

Today, deep mines still produce gold from under California's surface, but the Gold Rush's wild boomtowns and miners' camps are gone. A few have become busy modern cities, some linger on as tiny villages and some are ghost towns. Many have completely disappeared, and are only distant memories of the wild decade of the Gold Rush.

PETER COPELAND



To Everett Casey, who was a miner.

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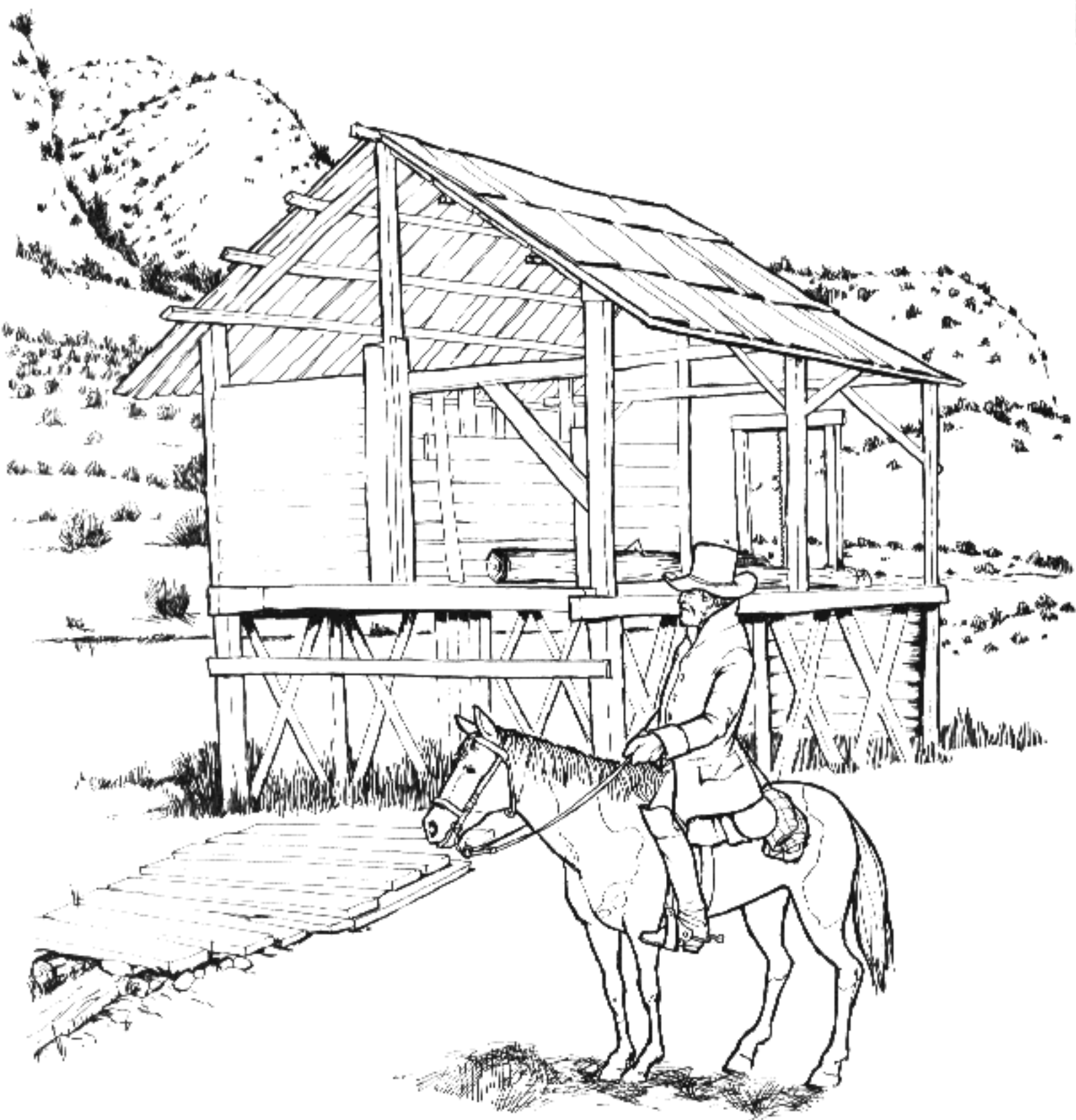
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The Mexican War in California. The armed forces of the United States invaded Mexican California by land and sea in 1846. They won at the decisive battle of San Gabriel.



Mexican Californians. In 1848, Mexico signed the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, ceding California, the New Mexico territories and the land down to the Rio Grande to the United States, ending the Mexican War. Whether they liked it or not, Spanish-speaking Californians became citizens of the United States.



Sutter's Mill. In January 1848, a carpenter named James W. Marshall found several nuggets of gold in a ditch near a millpond while he was constructing a sawmill on the banks of the American River at Coloma. The largest weighed over a quarter of an ounce. The news quickly reached San Francisco and by mid-March the Gold Rush was on



John Sutter and Sam Brannan. The sawmill where gold was first discovered belonged to John Sutter [seen at the left, in the uniform of the California state militia]. Eventually, he was ruined by the discovery. Brannan was a shrewd shopkeeper who spread word of the discovery and encouraged would-be miners to outfit themselves at his shop before they went to seek their fortunes in the gold fields.



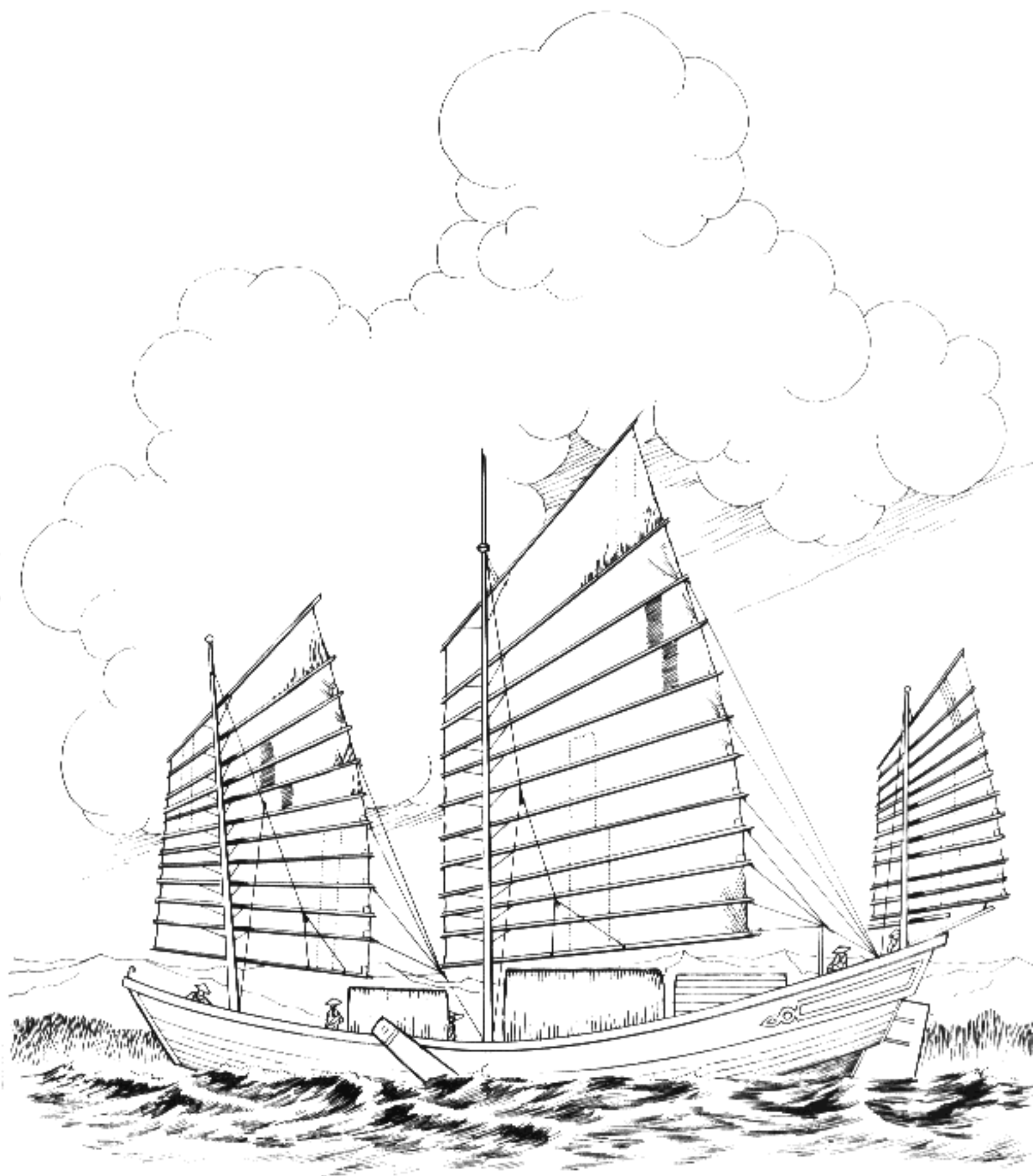
6 **Digging for gold.** The first fortune seekers arrived at the gold fields armed with picks, shovels and "washbowls" — flat metal pans used for sifting gold dust and nuggets from gravel in creeks and rivers.



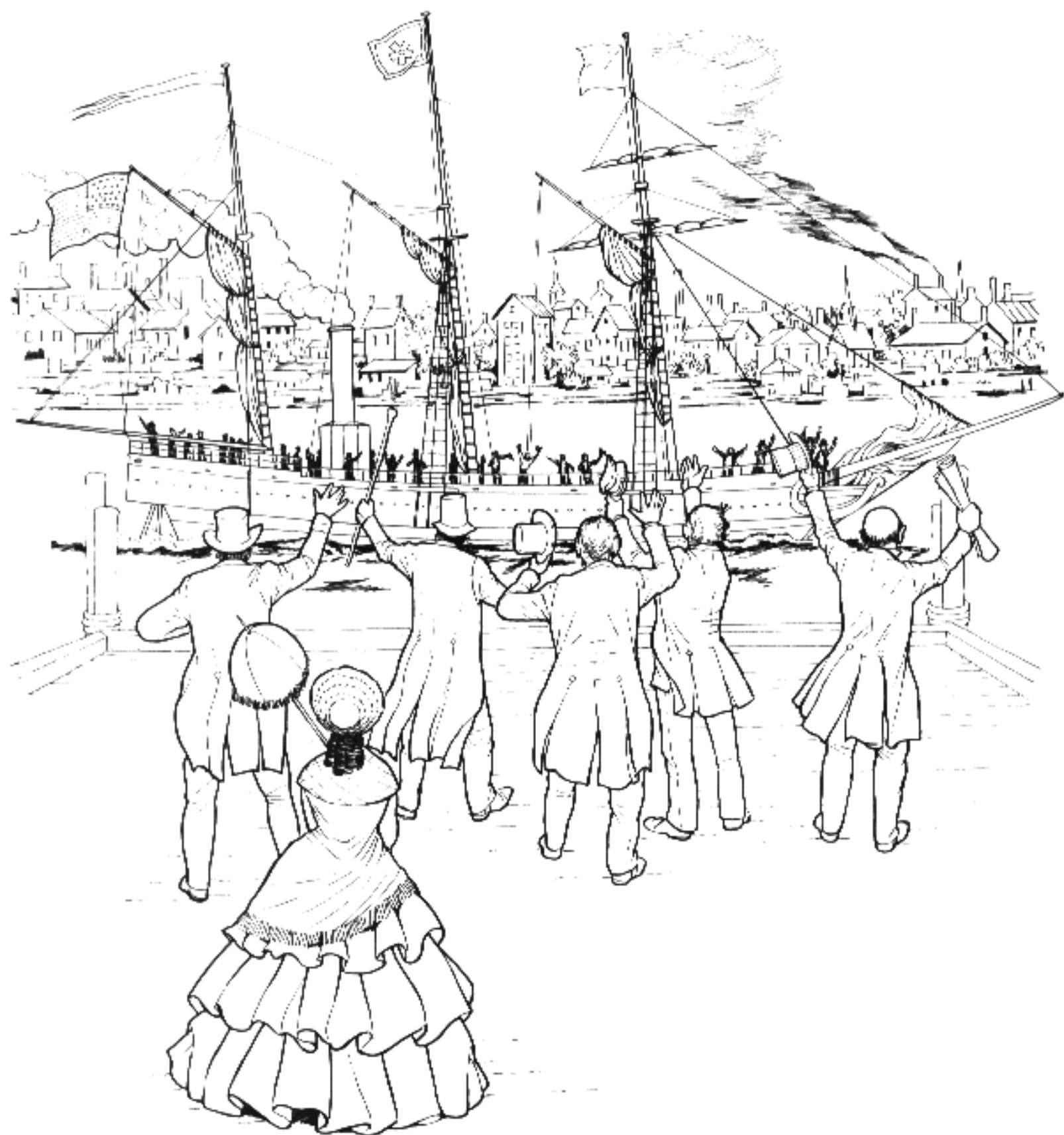
Tenderfoot prospectors, 1848. Two well-armed young greenhorns from Pennsylvania, on their way to the golden West, posed for the photograph on which this illustration is based. The huge influx of miners began in 1849.



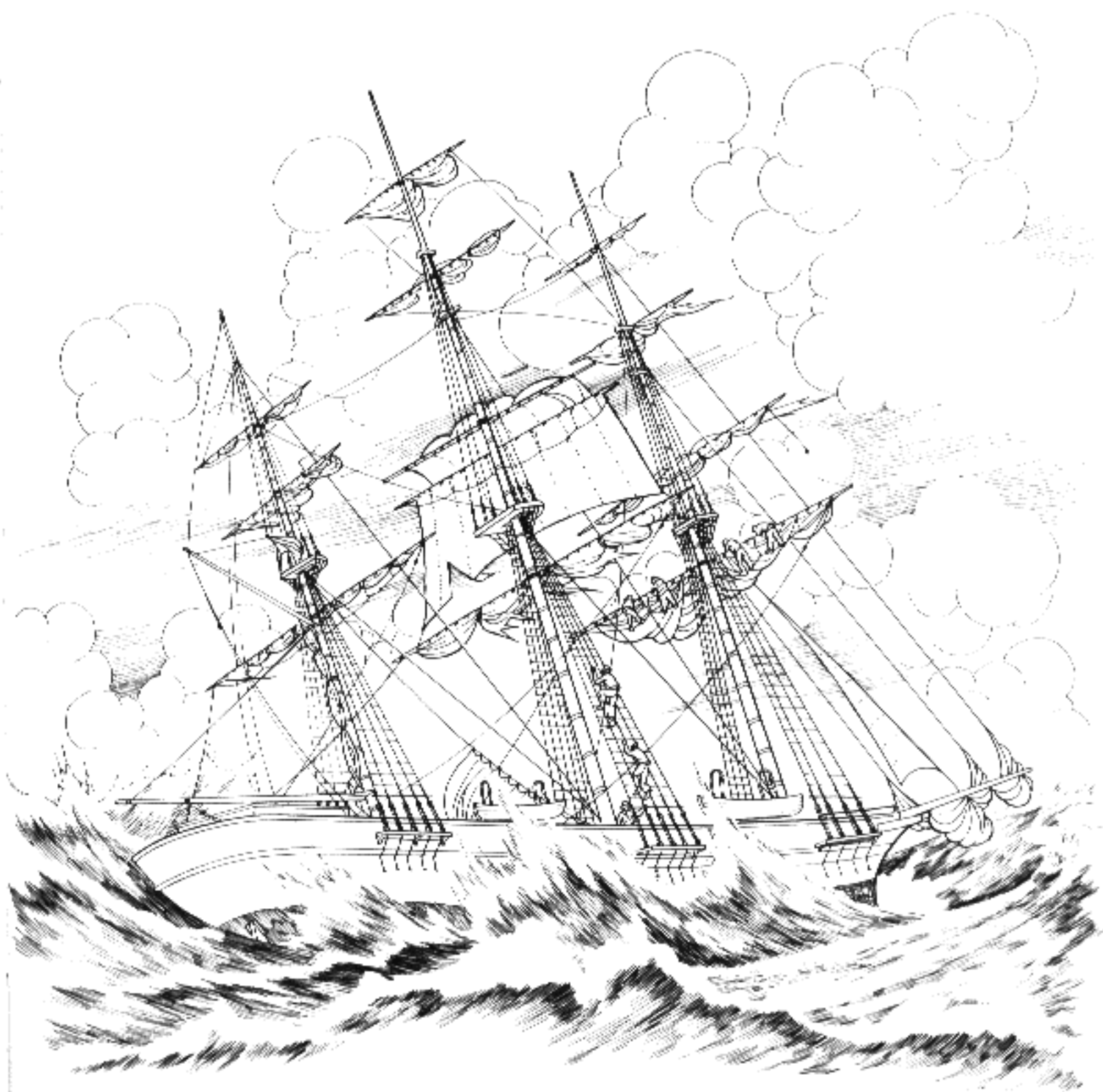
Portrait of a forty-niner. This hopeful gold hunter had his picture taken with an optimistically labeled gold sack and the tools of his chosen profession. Many pictures of the forty-niners show them bristling with Bowie knives and pistols.



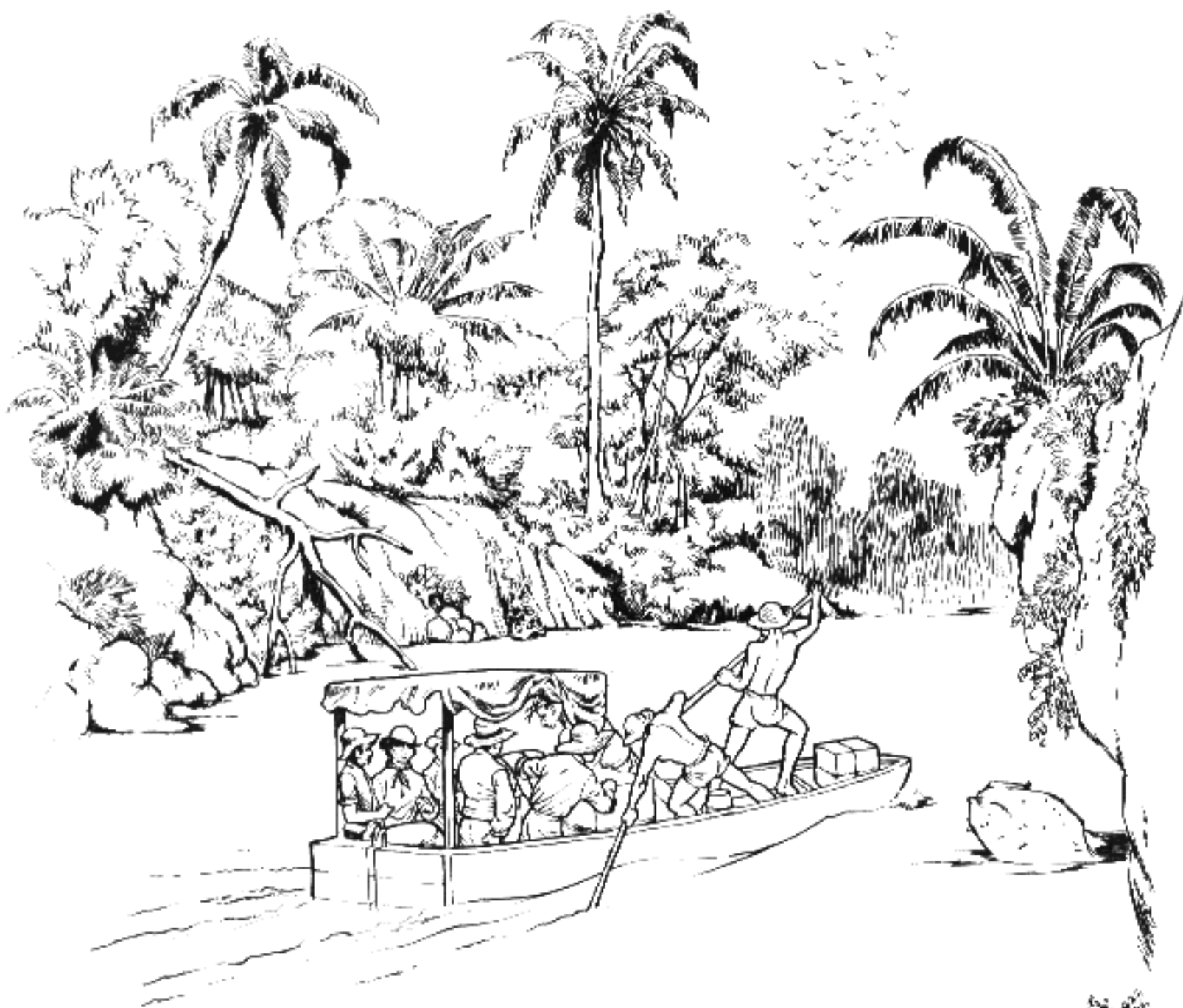
A Chinese junk in California waters. Gold fever brought ships and men from all over the world to San Francisco. By July 1849, junks from China were carrying men from Asia bound for the gold fields.



A Gold Rush steamer, 1849. Soon gold fever hit the East Coast. Here the steamship *Hartford* leaves New York harbor, her decks crowded with gold hunters. Fares were high, and shipboard conditions were primitive.



A California clipper in a Cape Horn storm. Because would-be prospectors from the East Coast were anxious to reach the gold fields as quickly as possible to establish their claims, many traveled around South America to California on the speedy clipper ships. [The *Flying Cloud* set the record with an 89 day passage to San Francisco.] But Cape Horn, at the southern tip of South America, was frequently stormy, and many a ship met its end there.



A flatboat on the Chagres River, Panama, 1849. Many East Coast forty-niners came to California by the Panama route—by steamship to Panama, across the isthmus by mule pack and riverboat, then by ship to California. But getting passage on a California-bound ship was not easy or guaranteed, and many of the hopeful fell victim to malaria.



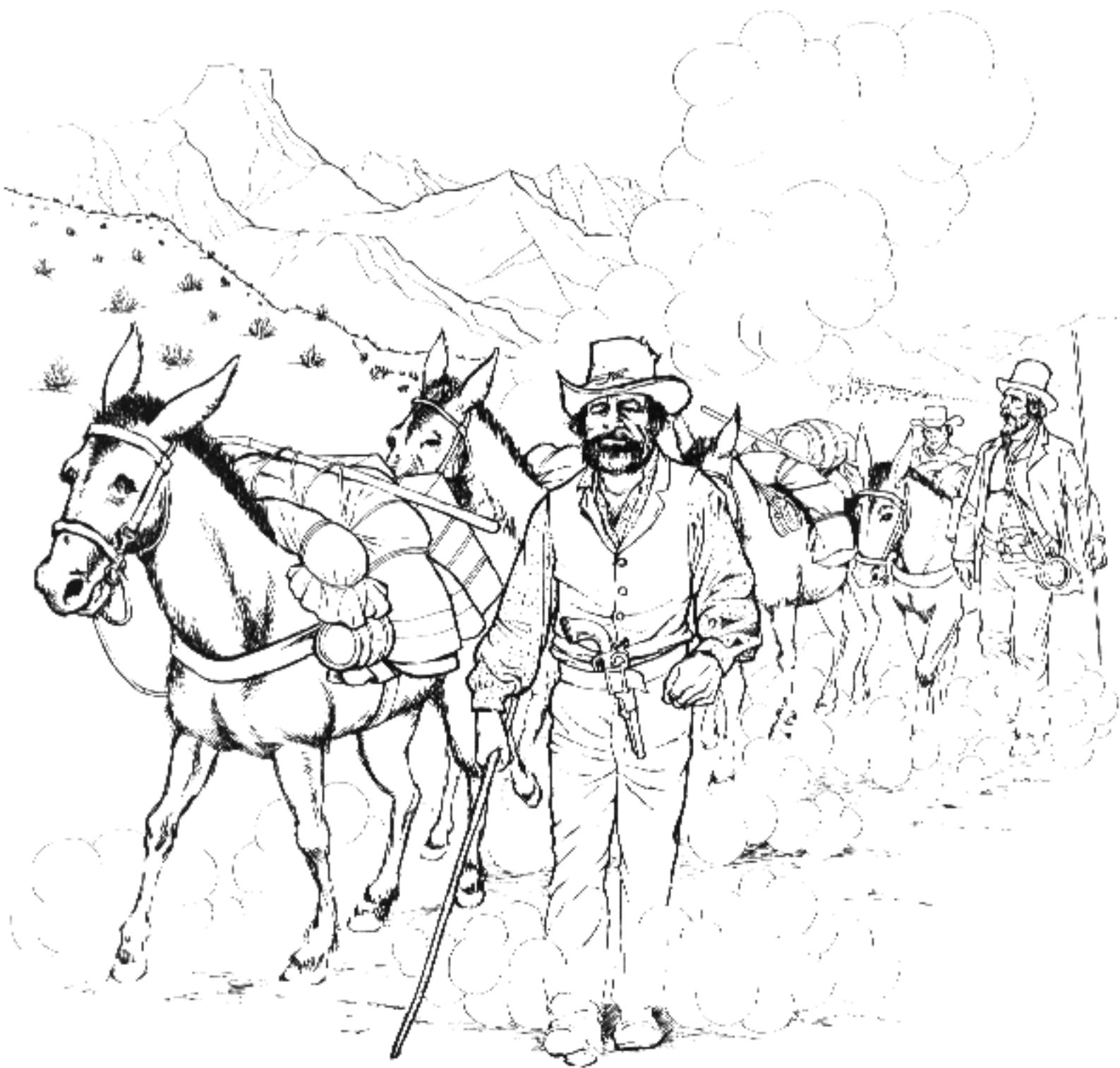


A lone forty-niner heads for the gold fields. Difficult as it was, the overland route to California was surer than the sea route for groups of prospectors. Here a prospector, smitten with gold fever, has set out across the plains and mountains with only two horses. For a person alone, the trip was very dangerous.

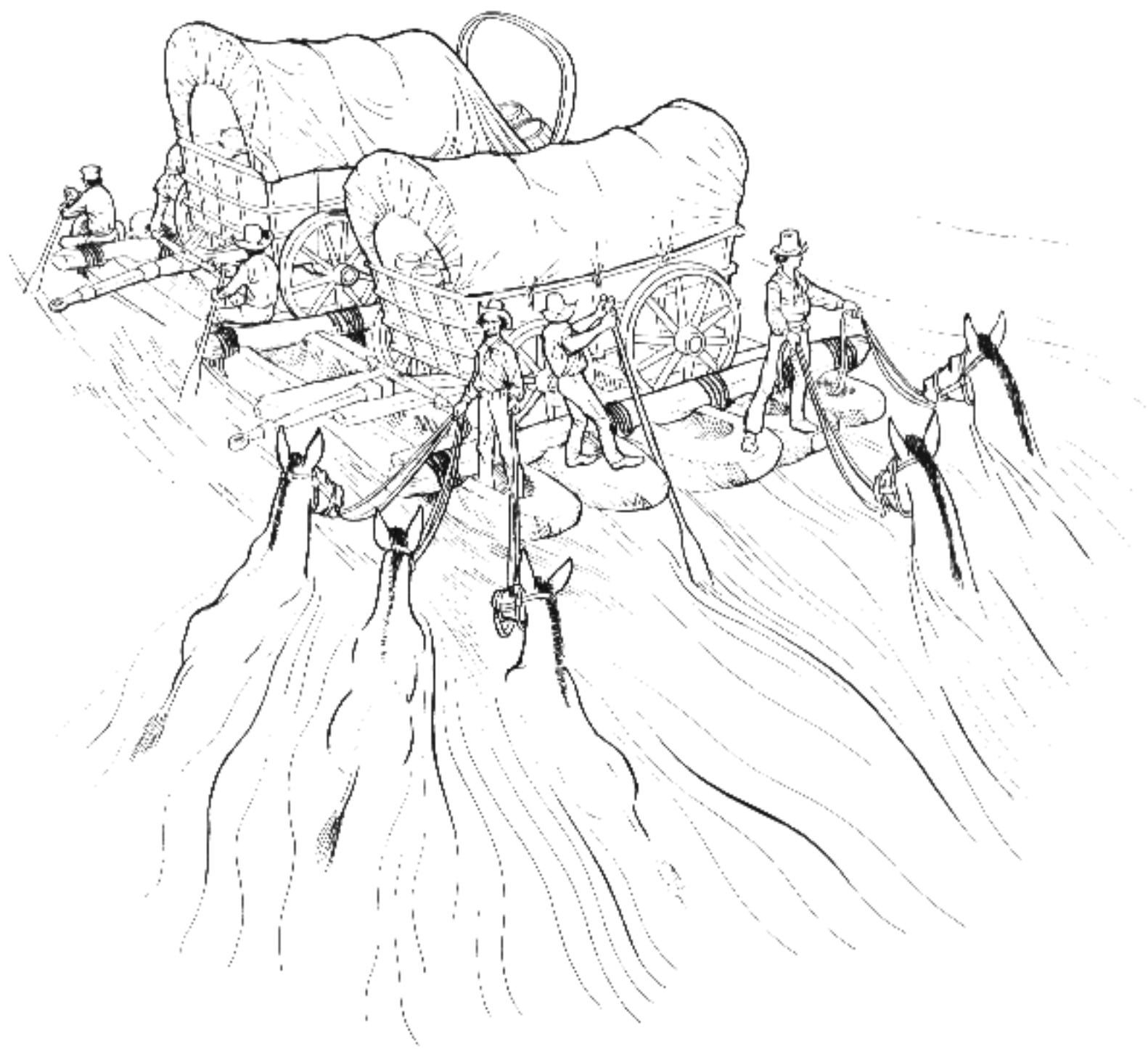




A wagon train bound for California, 1849. For people from the East and Midwest, the route to California crossed rugged and difficult terrain. Here a train of "prairie schooners" fords Medicine Bow River, Wyoming.



A small pack train bound for the gold fields. Many a less well-heeled prospector traveled across the country with only a few helpers and pack mules.



Forty-niners ford a Western river on a raft. This company of gold hunters is ferrying wagons and animals across a river aboard a raft made of dugout canoes [possibly purchased from Indians] that have been lashed together.



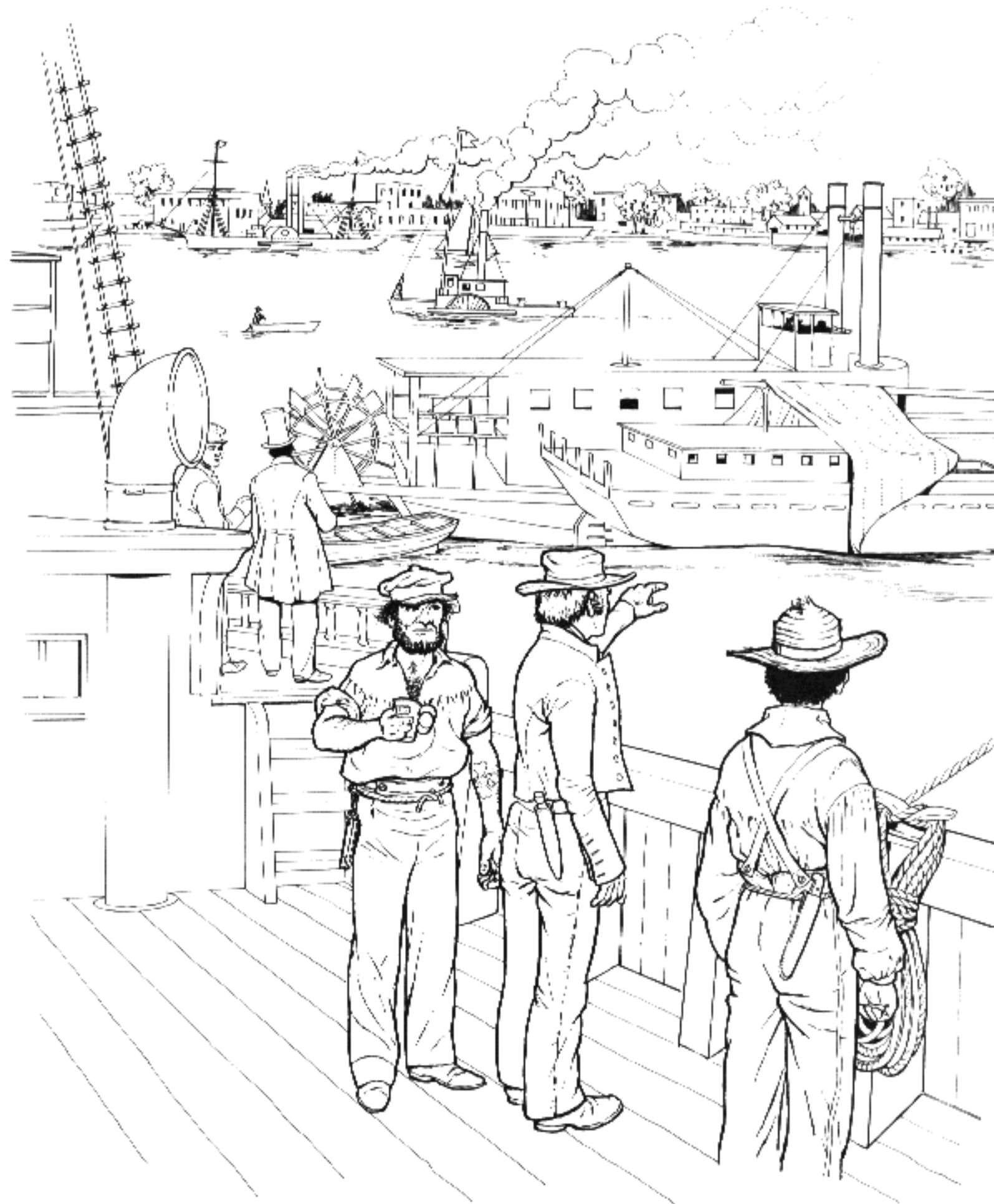
Dinner on the trail. A party of prospectors cooks dinner under the open sky during the long overland journey to California. If they were lucky, the men might have shot a rabbit for their stew pot



Old San Francisco. Before the Gold Rush, San Francisco (called Yerba Buena until 1847) had been a little town of about 1000 people, most of whom lived in small adobe houses. During the Gold Rush years, the town became the wildest, fastest-growing boomtown in the United States. The harbor was filled with abandoned merchant ships whose crews had run off to the gold fields.



A new arrival to California, 1849. Some women also made the trip to California. The forty-niners, hungry for the sight of a female after months in the wilderness camps, invariably questioned a new arrival such as this one. "Married, ma'am?" they ask. "No, sir!" she replies, to their delight.



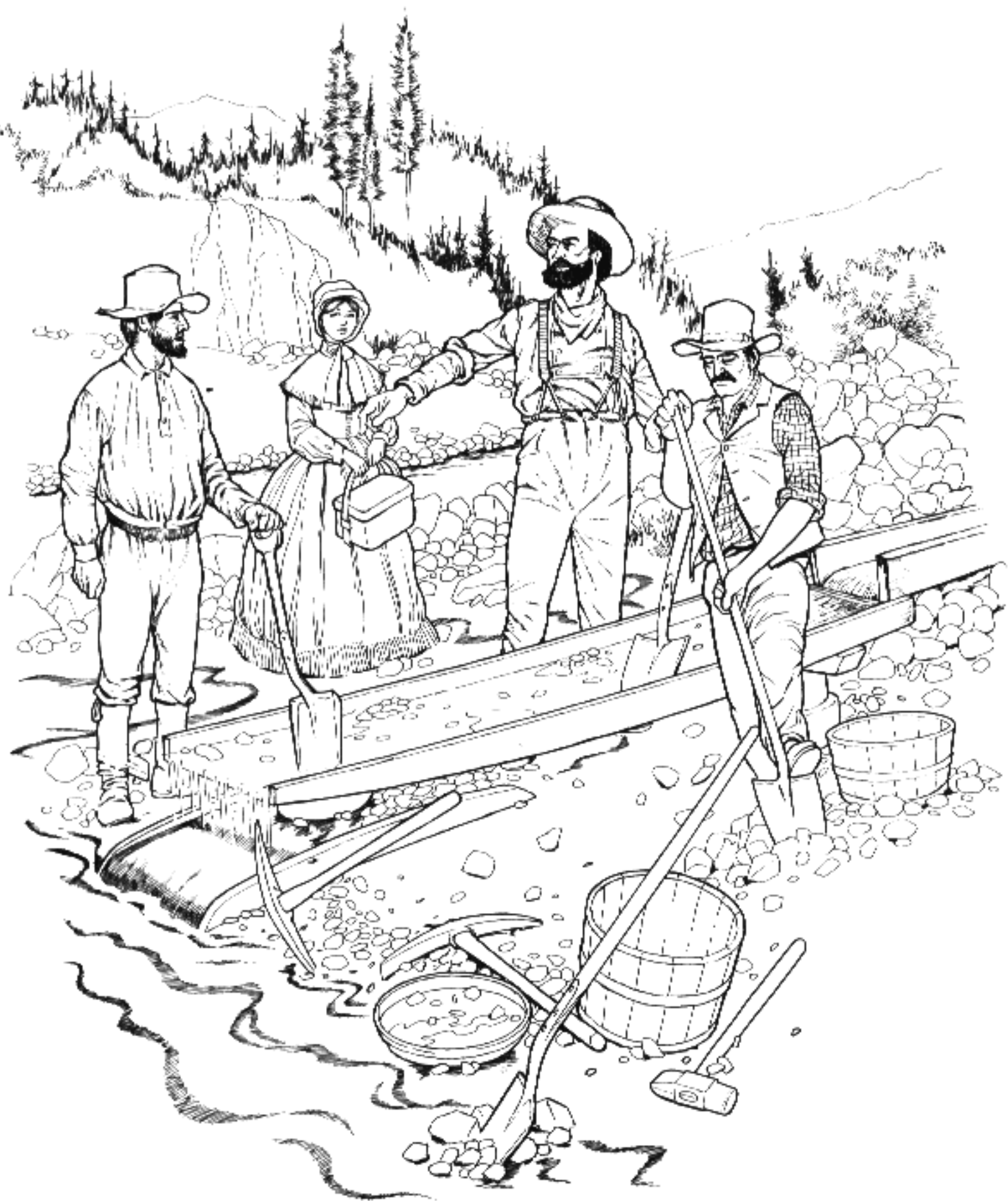
Sacramento, 1850. Sacramento became a booming port because it was the end of the steamboat line that carried gold hunters from San Francisco to the gold fields. These sailors, on the deck of an arriving steamer, will probably jump ship by nightfall to make their way to the mining camps.



22 **Working a stream.** During the early days of the Gold Rush, a group of prospectors works a stream that runs past their camp of crude log cabins with canvas roofs. The miner at the left is panning



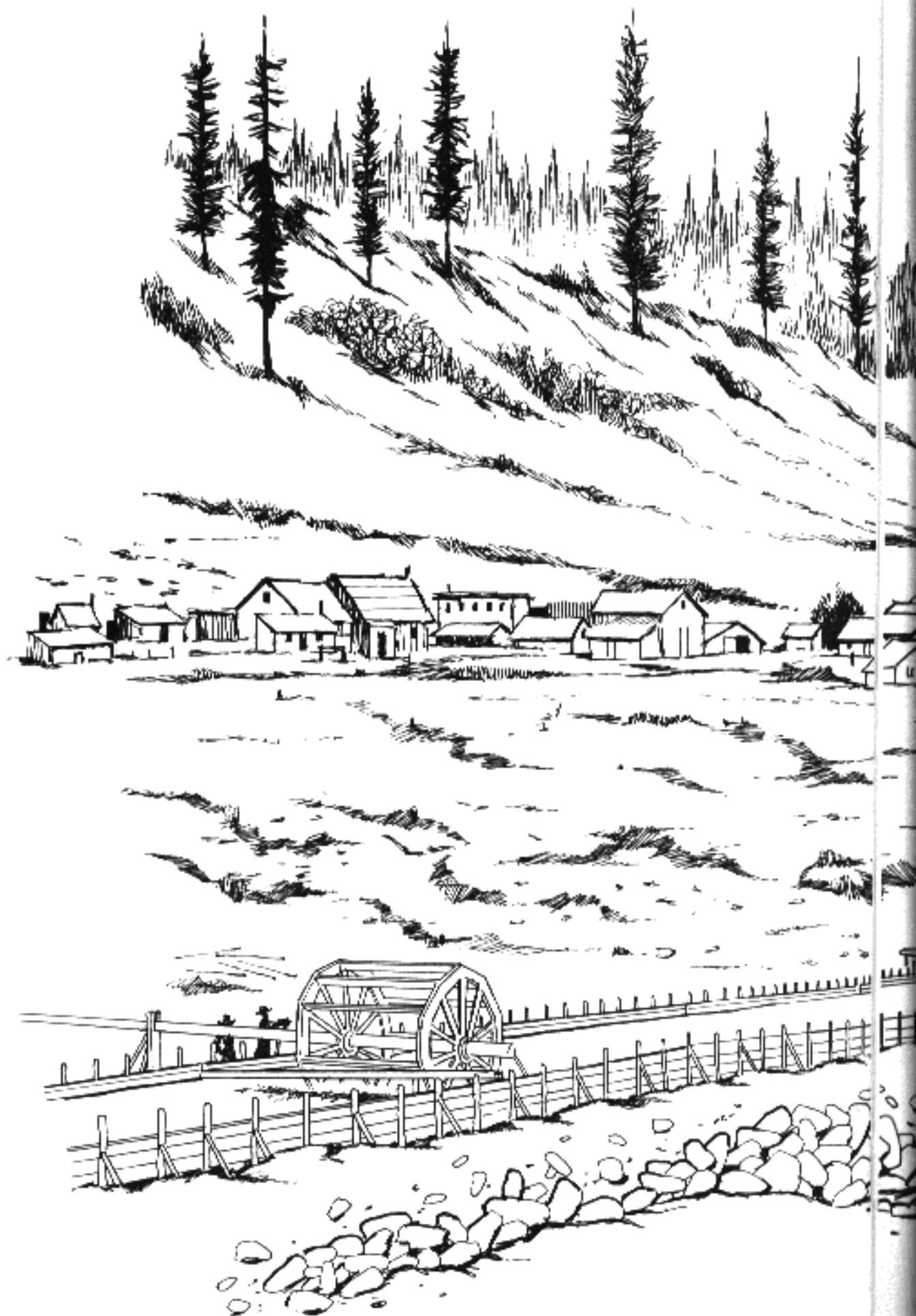
gold with a "washbowl" pan, probably the commonest method used in creek beds by the early prospectors.



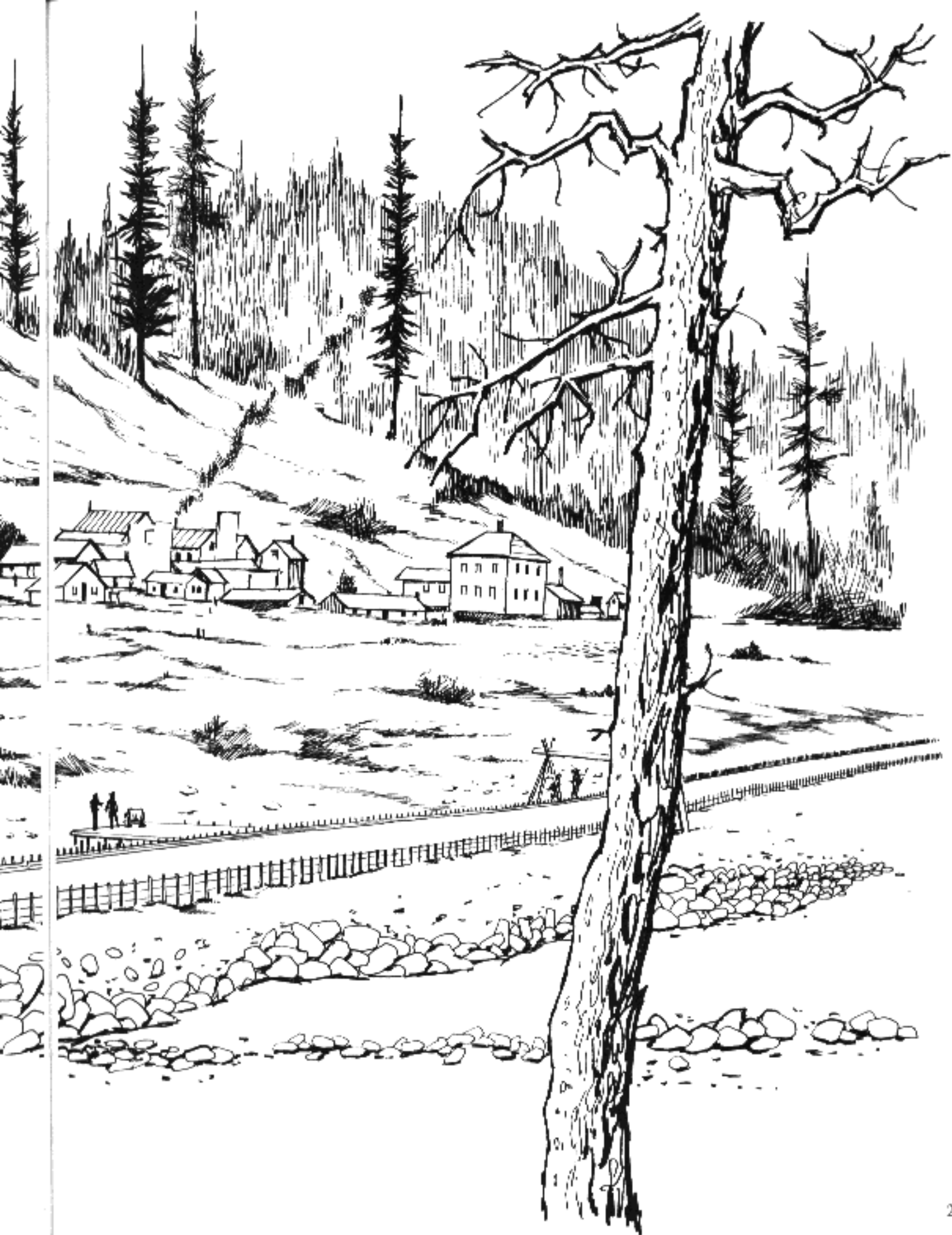
A Long Tom at Auburn, 1849. Many methods of separating gold from gravel were used in an attempt to speed up the work and increase profits from each day's work. One laborsaving device used by the miners was the Long Tom, which washed gold from the gravel of a streambed. Not many forty-niners were lucky enough to have a lady, such as the one seen here, bring them a basket lunch.



Miners operate a rocker. Another type of gravel-washing machine that extracted gold dust from a streambed was the rocker, or cradle. The miner operating the contraption on the left was said to be "rocking the cradle."



A waterwheel-and-sluice system, Grizzly Flats, 1850. Gravel-washing machines became ever larger in an effort to sift out gold dust more rapidly. The waterwheel-and-sluice system was built to supply water for the Long Toms.





Winnowing gold in a blanket. Another method used by prospectors was to winnow, or sift, gold from dirt, sand and gravel by tossing shovelfuls of dirt in a blanket, causing the dirt to blow away and the heavier gold dust to settle to the bottom.



Miners work a claim. Men of all races and nations came together in the gold fields. Here, a black and a white miner work a claim together near Spanish Flat in 1852.





Hydraulic mining. This form of mining tore away mountain-sides with a stream from high-powered water hoses that were operated by steam-driven pumps. The cheapest and most effective method of washing gold from gravel, it was used by the large mining companies that eventually came to dominate the digging of California gold.



A claim-jumping brawl. At first, prospectors followed their own code of honor, but soon the situation became chaotic. Disputes among the miners regarding rights to mining claims were usually settled violently, in a rough-and-ready fashion.



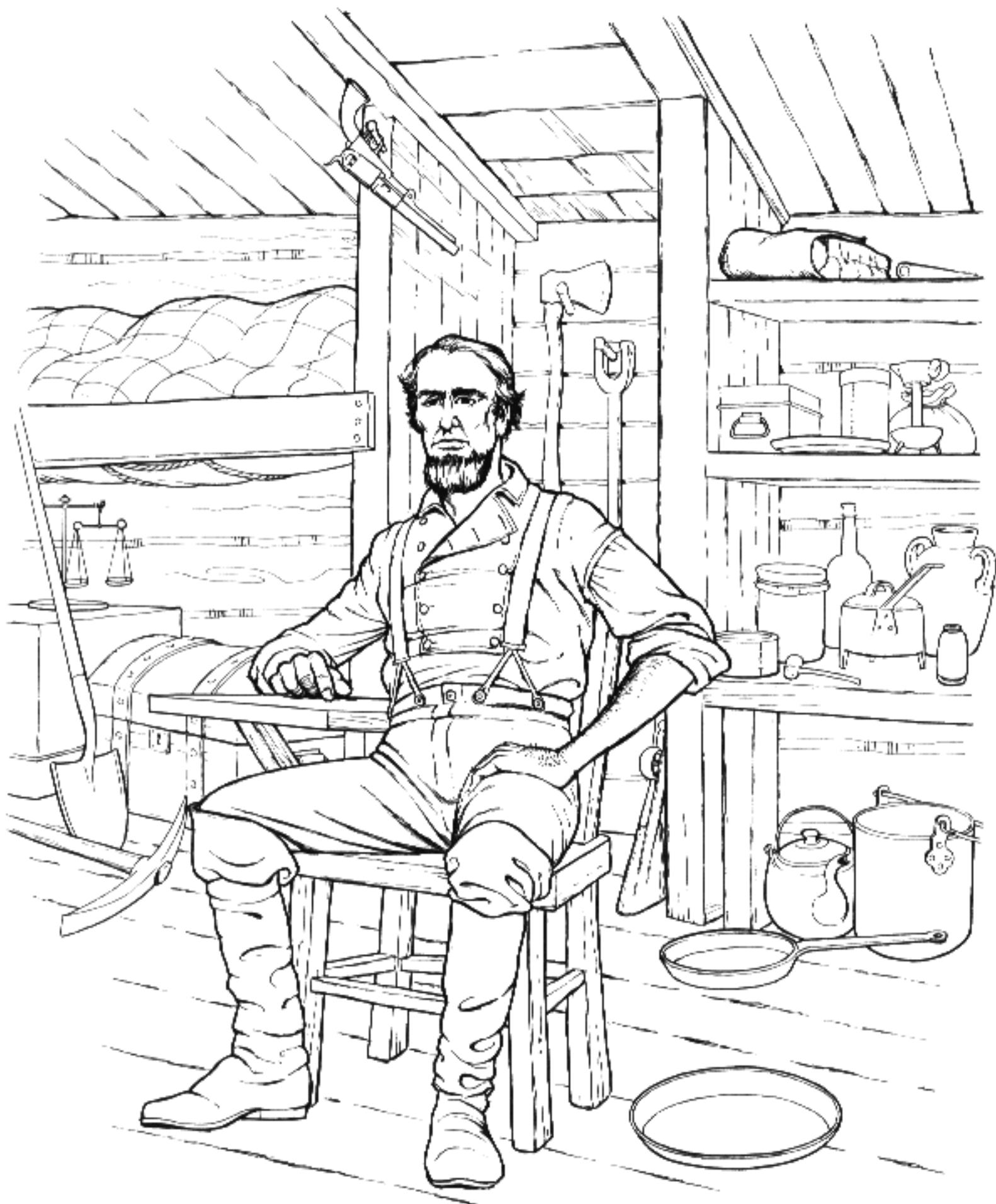
Miners' justice. Such law as existed in the miners' camps was administered by the forty-niners themselves, and it was rough, hard justice that they meted out. Judge and jury often assembled under the nearest large tree and wasted little time in carrying out a sentence.



Miners weigh gold dust. One important task, performed at the end of the working day, was the weighing of the gold accumulated during the day's labors. Most miners, and the merchants who did business with them, had a set of scales calibrated in fractions of ounces.



Miners trade gold dust for food and supplies. During the Gold Rush, gold dust, measured into leather pouches, was the medium of exchange for most merchants and traders who did business with the miners. Gold hunters could swap gold dust for sacks of flour, beans, sides of bacon, molasses, gunpowder and other necessities. Prices were frequently exorbitant—at one point, a dozen eggs cost \$10.



Interior of a miner's cabin, 1852. This well-built and well-equipped cabin at Rough and Ready is a far cry from some of the more primitive shacks many miners built for themselves. The gold hunter seems prepared for almost any need.



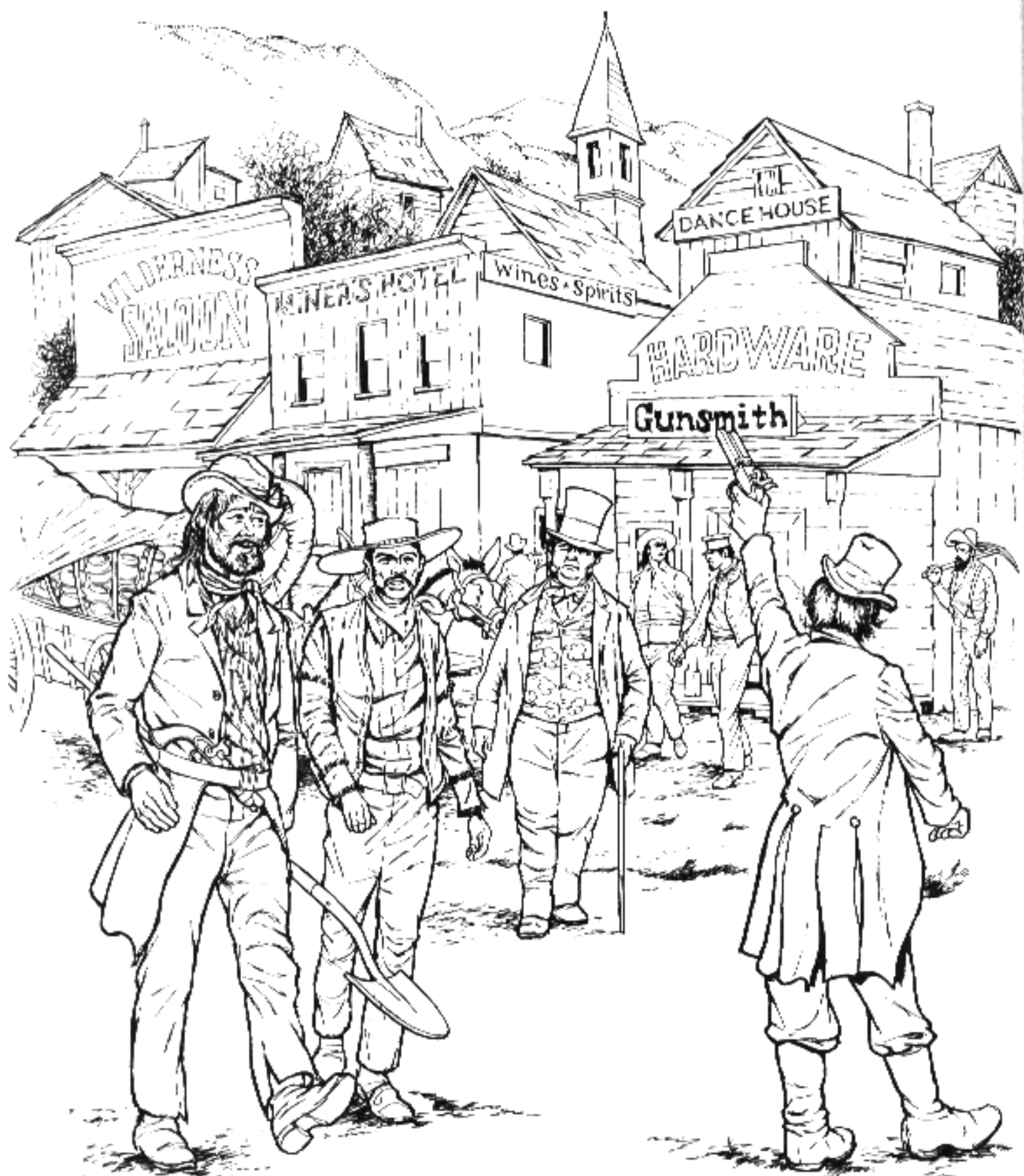
A miner's daughter. An early photographer, setting up shop in the mining camp of Hangtown in 1850, photographed a miner's young daughter dressed in her Sunday bonnet and ribbons.



Sunday night in a miners' camp. There were few women in the isolated and remote mining camps of the Gold Rush, but Saturday night was still a time for revelry, and the men danced with each other to a medley from a concertina and, perhaps, a fiddle.



Dinner at a miners' boardinghouse. Years after the Gold Rush, a veteran forty-niner reported that dining at a miners' boardinghouse had often been a dangerous adventure. Food was served on a first-come-first-served basis, and the strongest and fastest usually got the pick of the dinner.



A boomtown, 1850. Some of the Gold Rush shanty camps blossomed into wild-and-woolly frontier boomtowns where thieves, outlaws, gamblers and swindlers gathered to separate the miners from their hard-earned sacks of gold.

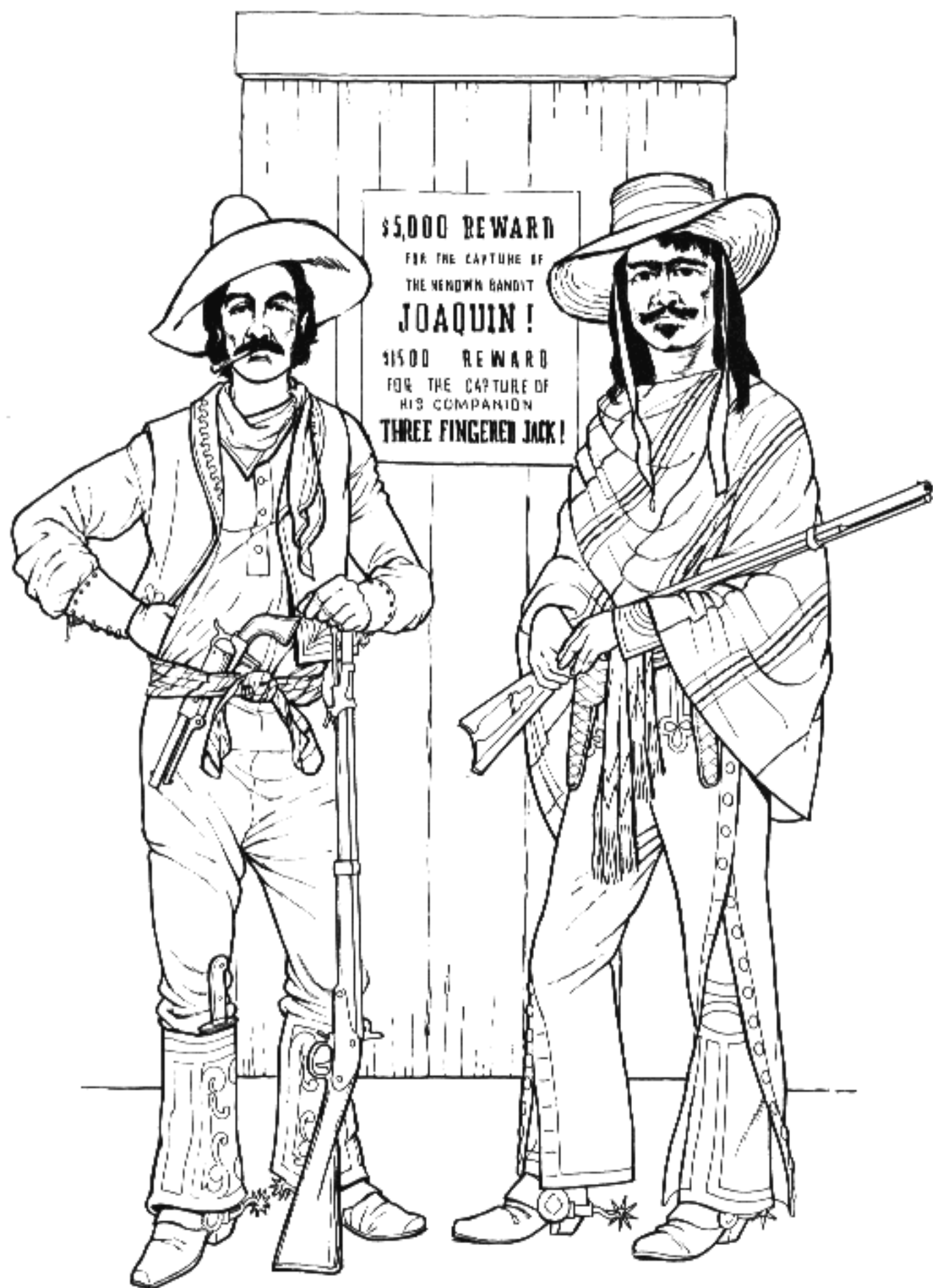


Lola Montez, 1853. Miners were not the only people lured to California by visions of wealth. The famous dancer Lola Montez (actually Irish-born Marie Gilbert) played San Francisco, toured the mining camps, settled for a time in Grass Valley and eventually bought shares in the Eureka Gold Mining Company.



Nightlife in a boomtown. Three women perform their act to the enthusiastic admiration of the audience. If the cost of necessities in the boomtowns was high, that of luxuries and other pleasures was even higher. Entertainment could be rough and wild.





Joaquín Murietta and Three-Fingered Jack, 1850. Murietta and his murderous henchman terrorized the mining camps, killing and robbing until 1853, when they were reported to have been killed near Cantua Creek.



Prospectors leave California for the silver mines of Nevada. By the end of the 1850s, the more easily gathered surface gold was gone, and the big mining companies came to dominate the expensive and labor-intensive business of extracting gold from below the earth's surface. Independent prospectors packed up and headed for the fabulous Comstock Lode in Nevada.





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In January 1848 at Sutter's Mill, California, a carpenter named James Marshall found several nuggets of gold, the largest of which weighed over a quarter of an ounce. The news quickly reached San Francisco and by March, the great California Gold Rush was on! Boom towns and miner's camps sprang up across the state as fortune-hunters from all over the world came to try their luck.

Now the excitement and rags-to-riches glamor of the Gold Rush era has been captured in this treasury of accurate, carefully researched drawings. Colorists of all ages are invited to recreate the great adventure by coloring more than 40 authentic detailed scenes: California mountain men, Sutter's Mill in 1848, old San Francisco, a Gold Rush steamer leaving New York for California, prospectors panning for gold, Saturday night in a mining camp, portrait of a forty-miner, nightlife in a Gold Rush boomtown, and other vivid tableaux.

In addition to a wealth of expertly rendered illustrations, noted historian-illustrator Peter Copeland has provided an Introduction and informative captions replete with background information for each true-to-life scene.

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